

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 15574 241604Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 SIL-01 LAB-04
/135 W

-----096802 250528Z /16

R 241538Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5201

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ELTN, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILWAY STRIKE

1. ON AUGUST 22, VINCENZO ZOLI, VICE DIRECTOR
GENERAL FOR RAW MATERIALS AND ROME REPRESENTATIVE FOR
ITALSIDER (THE ITALIAN STEEL MAKING FIRM)
HANDED TO EMBOFFS (IN AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE) A LETTER ADDRESSED
TO AMBASSADOR GARDNER. THE LETTER OUTLINES ITALSIDER'S RISING
CONCERN OVER THE INTERRUPTION IN U.S. COLING COAL SHIPMENTS
DESTINED TO ITALY WHICH HAS BEEN CAUSED BY THE CURRENT LABOR
STRIKE AT NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILWAY. SINCE THE STRIKE
BEGAN JULY 7, ITALSIDER (WHICH IMPORTS 3.5 MILLION TONS/YEAR
AND USUALLY LOADS FIVE SHIPS PER MONTH AT NORFOLK) HAS MISSED
SEVERAL SHIPMENTS AND PRESENTLY HAS TWO SHIPS (THE OCEANO AND
POSEIDON) WAITING FOR LOADING AT NORFOLK.

2. ZOLI INFORMED EMBOFFS THAT NORFOLK AND WESTERN MANAGEMENT
IS TRYING TO GET ONE SHIP LOADED TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION
SOMEWHAT BUT HE SURMISED THAT FURTHER LOADINGS WILL NOT
LIKELY BE POSSIBLE UNTIL THE STRIKE IS SETTLED. HE
EMPHASIZED THE POTENTIAL SEVERE DISRUPTION TO ITALSIDER'S
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STEEL MAKING OPERATIONS IF THE STRIKE CONTINUES MUCH
LONGER.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. WOULD APPRECIATE UPDATE
ON STATUS OF NORFOLK AND WESTERN LABOR NEGOTIATIONS,
BEST ESTIMATE AS TO DURATION OF STRIKE, AND ANY GUIDANCE
WHICH EMBASSY CAN USE TO RESPOND TO ITALSIDER. HOLMES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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